

THE BANDWAGON

The Official Publication of the

CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 3.- No. 2.

April 15th, 1944.

AN EXTENSIVE TOUR THROUGH THE WEST WITH SELLS-FLOTO CIRCUS - in 1918 By C. E. Duble - CHS Historian

Just twenty-six years ago it was really an extensive tour of the West for the Sells-Floto Circus. This prominent and high class tented amusement institution confined its full season's routing to the States West of the mighty Mississippi River with the exception of one day when the circus crossed the river into Illinois and exhibited at Rock Island, then turned back to Iowa for following stands.

I have before me the Official Route Sheet, Season 1918, Sells-Floto "The Circus Beautiful". I was a member of this big troupe the entire season. All CHS Members and circus fans I am sure are acquainted with the fact that this fine organization was owned by the original owners and founders, Tammen and Bonfils of Denver, Colo., at that time, and up to December 1920. All circus folks engaged for that year reported at Denver, Colo., the home office of the show and Winter Quarters where the name was a household word, and throughout the West. Quite a number of performers, ticket sellers, bosses, bandmen and others stopped at the old historic Windsor Hotel on Larimer Street, host to the Famous, and in the '80's and '90's Denver's finest hotel. We were there one week.

The circus train with all equipment and the flats loaded with elaborate richly carved tableau wagons, band wagons, and cages, fresh from the hands of the artists and painters left Denver over the Santa Fe Railway, Monday April 1st, a beautiful Spring day. Next day a stop was made at Trinidad, Colo., where the cook tent was erected and all were fed, including the stock. Likewise the next day a stop was made at Las Vegas, N.M., Show train arrived in Albuquerque, N.M., early A.M. April 4th, rehearsals held following day and season opened Saturday April 6th. Show was at El Paso, Tex., Monday and enjoyed good business, followed by four more stands in New Mexico, then into Arizona playing Bisbee, Benson, Miami, Globe, Wilcox, Tuscon, Phoenix and Yuma. First stand in California was at El Centro, April 22nd.

A long tour of that state was made, 42 days being spent there. Los Angeles was played May 2-4 and San Francisco May 30-June 2. For almost seven weeks we were on the Southern Pacific Railway? Show was in Oregon and Washington stands after leaving California, then into Idaho, exhibiting at Mosco, Boise and Shoshone. On July 4th show was at Walla Walla, Wash. Salt Lake City, Utah, was the July 11th date and from there a long jump was made to Cheyenne, Wyoming; over the Oregon Short Line, and Union Pacific Railway - 521 miles, ((show being enroute July 12th). We enjoyed some wonderful scenery on this long trip.

Monday July 15th show did big business in the Home City of Denver, Colo. Many visitors on hand two days including Otto Floto. Other stops followed in Colorado then into Nebraska for one week playing Alliance, Broken Bow, Grand Island, York, Seward and Beatrice. It was a very dry Summer and weather extremely hot when show entered Iowa July 29th at Shenandoah. The first stand east of the Mississippi River was now played, August 6th. Show crossed back into Iowa making other towns up to August 20 at Centerville, then into Missouri for eleven towns. Show was heavily billed and big crowds looked forward to for Labor Day September 2nd in Kansas City, Mo., but entire day was lost account of rain and muddy lot. Horton, Kansas was lost also

account of weather conditions. The old home town of the Campbell Bros., Great Consolidated Shows was played September 5th at Fairbury, Nebraska. Ponca City and Alva, were the only stops made in Oklahoma. More Kansas and Colorado stands were played and Saturday September 28th show finished the 1918 tour at Walsenburg, Colo., and returned to quarters at Denver, 171 miles. Account of the 'flu epidemic that year, all other circuses that were enroute were forced to bring their season to an end about October 4th.

I have no list of the staff, performers, bosses, etc., as show did not have an official printed program. However, I recall from memory quite a few of them. H.B. Gentry was General Manager 1917 to 1920. Harvey Bruner who was with Gentry Bros., many years as Treasurer filled the same position with Sells-Floto. Mr. Jim Campbell, an old friend of the writer from the Mighty Haag Circus days was front door man, and had advertising banners. Doc Palmer was manager of the Big Double Museum and Annex with the usual line-up of side show attractions. Charlie Lucey, boss property man. The Big spool-like affair mounted on heavy running gear and his own invention, was in use then. Middle pieces were rolled up on this spool. C.L. Brown, with the show 1917 -1920 was Bandmaster with real circus band of 24 musicians. George Myers was big show announcer and in charge of the after show concert "The Big Musical Extravaganza" with 24 ballet girls, singers and dancers taking part also with Arthur Borella in his musical act playing a saxaphone solo "Carnival of Venice". A regular theatre back-drop was hung at rear of stage for the concert.

J.H. delVecho played steam calliope in parade and sold concert tickets. The circus had a nice spread of canvas all new that year, a 4-pole big top, with two rings and centre stage, and was a 30-car show.

I am unable to name all performers and these following however I do recall. William Wells, a veteran of Gentry Bros., was Equestrian Director presenting some well trained horses and appeared in the big high school horse act. The famous Hobson Family and the Hodgini family, equestrians presented their excellent riding acts with handsome horses in the two rings. The Le Groh's, one lady and two gents, very clever contortionists. Bert Delno Troupe on the Aerial bars, Paul Brachard, hand balancer and contortion act on pedestal. "Slats" Berta Beeson, on the tight wire gave a splendid exhibition in girl make-up. Ethel Marine and girl partner, iron jaw and trapeze act. Sweeney and Newton in a novel iron jaw act, and also trap performers. Leo Hamilton trained dogs and manage act, Ida Delno aerial performer and other acts. The Rink-Wright Duo in ladder balancing and equilibristic feats. Jack Harris and Arthur Borella headed the line-up of clowns. There was an Arab Troupe of nine men in whirlwind tumbling and pyramid acts. Blanche Wells Manage rider, also worked elephant herd and performed "Snyder" with long curved tusks, and biggest of the herd. This bull became unmanageable with the show two years later at Salina, Kansas; and had to be shot.

The 24 ballett girls presented the revolving statuary number in white tights and wigs in rings and on stage. The big aerial return act was The Four Famous Nelsons. Performance concluded with the Hobson's and Hodgini's in both rings attired as Indians in an exciting display of feats of horsemanship with sleigh bells on horses, and red fire burning, while the band played real Indian war dances.

A nice menagerie display was carried with some elegant dens and cages richly carved with the real circus flourish and with the sun burst wheels. All went in parade. The big bandwagon with show for years and sometimes referred to as the "Ceylon Wagon" is still preserved we are glad to say and at the Peru, quarters. Elegant lithos and lavish billboard displays were used by Sells-Floto Circus and plenty of attractive advertising matter was put out in advance.

The only opposition encountered of which I remember was the Al.G.Barnes Trained Wild Animal Show appearing in a few towns following us in the North West.

The Sells-Floto Circus is another big tented amusement Institution.

SELLS-FLOTO 1918 (concluded).

that has come and gone and with a fine reputation for almost thirty years, shall always be remembered as another of America's representative circuses.

The editors are certain that our readers will enjoy this resume of the 1918 tour of S-F by our popular Historian - C.E. Duble. We hope it will not be long before he writes another article for the Bandwagon. We also wish to take this opportunity of thanking CHS Frank Norton, who loaned us a negative from his large collection of "photos of lithos" - to illustrate the S-F title. While this litho is not of the early days as covered by this article, still we are sure that the members will like to see a sample from Norton's large collection, and to see the fine work he does in photographing his lithos. We have seen many of Frank's litho photos, and many of them are much better than this one. You will recall the article on types of lithos from Frank in a recent issue of the Bandwagon. Thanks to both C.E. Duble and Frank Norton, for their usual co-operation.

THE AUCTION BLOCK

Send your bids on the following lots to the Secretary J.B. Lyon,.....
22-A Charles St., Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Bids must be in by.....
Saturday, MAY 6th,

- Lot 1: Five postcard size photos - 2 early Sparks; 2 old wagons located at Benson Wild Animal Farm; and 1 of Frank Buck's Show at World Fair 1939. Complete description written on back of each by the donor. Donated by Eddie Jackson CHS - Box 477, Macon, Ga.
- Lot 2: Mixed lot of 5 items; small sized Van Amburgh newspaper ad for season 1864; Cole Bros., blotters; 1 RBBB Christmas card "Bull and Santa" and 1 H-W- 4-paw Sells Christmas Card. Donated by Burt Wilson CHS.
- Lot 3: Seven items James M. Cole Circus 1943 - including 1 litho, 1 sht. date & cowboy; official route sheet; 2 diff. tickets envelope & letterhead; small herald. Donated by Leonard Quist CHS.
- Lot 4: Three photos size 3X4"; indoor action night photos. 2 of American Eagles High Wire Act and other of Winnifred Colleano in heel catch. These are a trifle dark, but are most unusual as action shots. Donated by R.C. Friesel CHS.
- Lot 5: Large assortment of Newspaper ads; clippings and newspaper pictures - approx. over 100 items. Fine for Scrap book. At least one or more on following shows - RBBB; Cole; Russell; Arthur; Dailey; Downie; Mills; Spangles; Wallace; Gilbert; Clyde Beatty-Wallace; A.G. Kelly and Miller Bros. Donated by Tedd Meyer CHS.
- Lot 6: National Geographic Magazine - June 1934 - article finely illustrated, including Jumbo, Tusko, etc., etc., "Nature's Most Amazing Mammal" - The Elephant. Donated by Walter W. Tyson, CHS.

OLD CIRCUS MAN PASSES.

The Editors are advised by Clyde Wixom that Van R. Wixom, 67 years old, last of four sons of Matt Wixom, whose Circus, Wixom's Great Shows, toured Michigan 40 years ago -- has passed to the White Tops Above. Clyde Wixom in reporting this to us said in part "There certainly must be a grand reunion going on somewhere in the celestial 'big top'. And I bet the old gang who now are nearly all part are right there along with the musicians who are playing "Colossus of Columbia" and "Over the Waves" while Van again cracks the lunge whip at the dress rehearsal. And so another old-time trouper has gone. Let us not forget - Historians to make a record of all available information while they live.

CLYDE BEATTY- RUSSELL BROS. CIRCUS
as reported by....
CHS Joseph Shields

Joseph Shields attended this new circus and reports as follows:

"First of all - bouquets go out to Clyde Beatty and Arthur Concello in the splendid organization that they have.

All employees, also above named owners, with whom I came in contact, were exceptionally courteous. The conduct of the employees especially, deserves mention. A hard working set of people, plus very fine deportment; while carrying out their various assignments.

All equipment too, looked fine. Trucks are principally the semi-trailer type, and looked swell in their new coats of Circus Red. Clyde Beatty's Animal Trucks are painted a bright yellow, red and blue trimming.

Upon entering the Menagerie, the first to attract my attention was a mule, then about one dozen nice looking horses, also a like number of shetlands. Then two Llamas; followed by the four semi-trailers of Clyde Beatty's cats; Lions and Tigers, about 22 in number. One section of a cage had Beatty's two trained Chimpanzees. Farther on, a large trailer cage of monkeys, then two camels, and finally a fine herd of nine elephants.

Now, we entered the Big Top - a 4-poler, plus three rings. Peculiarly I noticed throughout the dome of the Big Top, the initials TM which means that it formerly belonged to the great Cowboy Actor-Star ---- "Tom Mix".

The performance ran through very smoothly per programme. Clyde Beatty's regular routine. Clowns were plentiful and pleased highly in their funmaking. I especially wish to mention the splendid and swift moving elephant number. Five fine fellows in the centre ring, paced by Miss Norma Rodgers. Beatty's three bulls also in Ring No. 1. All told-- it is a clean moving Circus. Admission - Adults \$1.00, Children 60¢. Reserves priced at \$1.00.

On behalf of the Circus Historical Society - I am sure that you will all join in wishing "The Clyde Beatty -- Russell Bros., Circus a"Very Happy and a Prosperous Season."

- Programme of Events -
Clyde Beatty - Russell Bros., Circus

1. A Radiant New Spectacle of Color, Beauty, Joy and Laughter in Glorious Processional Pagentry
 2. The Internationally renowned Artists in Amazing aerial feats;
THE ELDENS THE GENDERS
 3. Harriet Beatty - (Riding Lion).
 4. An Astounding Novelty Divertissement;
THE LINDS THE FREE HANDS
 5. Promenade of the Clowns - introducing Big-Footed Double-Dizzy, red-nosed Funmakers from the Near and Far Reachers of the Earth.
 6. Natural enemies from Jungle Wilds Educated Beyond Belief. Great new mixed groups of the most ferocious Wild Animals Ever assembled under the direction of; CLYDE BEATTY.
 7. Thrilling features as traditional as the circus itself:
THE GUTIERRIS THE ARDENS THE LINDS
 8. Amusing and remarkable examples of patient schooling and training:
PERFORMING DOGS PERFORMING PONIES
 9. Inimitable and increditable New Feats Awheel:
by Myrtle Dunedin.
 10. Accomplished Beauties in Rhythmic Ensemble. Aloft featuring the lovely ESTRELITA - produced by Antoinette Concello.
 11. Clyde Beatty's educated Chimpanzees.
 12. Wizards of the Tight Wire in New and Unparalleled Equilibristic surprises;
 13. THE GUTERRIS DON FRANCISCO THE PENNYS

(continued next page)

Programme - Beatty-Russell (Continued)

13. Bucking Mules.
 14. Introduction of our Cowboys and Cowgirls.
 15. Daring and agile Comedians in startling power dives and lofty Somersaulting.
 16. Mexican Wizards in a Potpourri of breath-taking new feats:
THE COMEAUS THE OLEVERAS THE FREEHANDS
 17. An Equestrian Presentation in which the High School Horse is King.
Presented by Rudy Rudinoff.
 18. Winston's Educated Sea Lions.
 19. Clyde Beatty Elephants' - presented by Miss Norma Rodgers.
 20. Wild West Show announcement.
 21. "Promenade of the Clowns" -
 22. The World's foremost mid-air marvels --
featuring ANTOINETTE CONCELLO.
- - - - -

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAIL BAG.

Remember - if your membership card shows expiry date as "May 1st, 1944"
-- do not forget to mail your dues to the Treasurer, Walter J. Pietschmann, 7337 Third Street, Detroit 2, Michigan. (Apartment 202).

CHS Burns Kattenberg, Mansfield Ohio had a nice illustrated article on his collection of material on contortionism in the New York World Telegram of March 6th, 1944.

CHS William Koford - Jamestown, N.Y., is not troupeling this year as he had intended, previously, but is remaining at home in Jamestown.

CHS Paul A. Ruddell, Capitol Heights, MD., has sent out to all CHS Members a Circus Bibliography of out-of-print circus books. This is a fine list, and any new members, and members who did not receive a copy may obtain one by simply writing to Paul A. Ruddell, 4909 F. St., Capitol Heights, Md., and he will send you one.

Jimmie Armstrong, recent member of CHS, who lives in Oklahoma City, Okla, is a midget; is 3 ft. 9 inches tall and weighs 87 lbs. He has troupeling with several midget vaudeville reviews playing theatres and night clubs. He wonders if he is the only midget member of CHS.

Members are asked when writing to the treasurer, Walter J. Pietschmann to include his postal Zone number on their envelopes. His address is 7337 THIRD ST., DETROIT 2, MICH.

CHS John M. Brown of Brunswick Me., had his collection of circusciana written up in splendid style by the Lewiston Journal, date of March 11th. A fine article with photos of Mr. Brown.

Contributing Member CHS F.M. Farrell, of Ithaca N.Y., in commenting on the account of the Kit Carson Wild West Show in the February issue of the Bandwagon - states that he saw this show in Elroy, Wisc., in August of 1911. He knew many who were with the Kit Carson Show of that year.

Members appreciated the fine circus article check list which our President Walter W. Tyson, and Vice-President Burt L. Wilson sent out at their expense to all members with the last Historical Note Sheet.

In this connection CHS Robert A Collins mentions that an addition can be made to the November 1943 check-list e.g. Esquire Magazine - full page in colors of Backstage at the Greatest Show on Earth, picturing Emmett Kelly, Elizabeth Wallenda and Betty Nitsch.

We would appreciate hearing from members with any further additions to the check list, and we will list these in future issues.

Remember your dues - Send them to the Treasurer Now -- Thank you.

"CIRCUS EVENTS"
as compiled by John Van Matre, CHS 124.

On June 12th 1902 at the matinee of Harris Nickel Plate Show, exhibiting at Sigourney, Iowa, a tornado levelled the big top, injuring 25 people. On the same day at New West Moreland, Tenn., a gun fight took place during the evening show of Sun Bros., Progressive Shows. Result 1 man shot.

On August 30th 1902 in Dexter, Kans., while Bonheur Bros., Show was in full swing, a cyclone lifted the tent.

During the night of September 1-1902, cars containing John H. Sparks Show were wrecked at Veedersburg, Ind.,

Early in the morning of September 20th 1902 a freight train ran into the rear of Sells & Downs Circus train at Choctaw, Okla.

The first section of the Wallace Show train was wrecked at Shelbyville Ill., July 16th 1903. Disaster seemed to follow this show, for again on August 6th 1903, they had a rear end collision at Durand, Mich., and all bosses were killed but one. Altogether the dead totalled 25, seriously injured 21 and 100 less seriously hurt.

At the Winter Quarters of Greater Smith Amusement Enterprise in Brunswick, Ga., February 28th 1906 - 16 monkeys were burned to death. Brundage-Fisher Amusement Co., encountered cyclone at Blackwell, Okla, June 1st 1906. A month later the Morris & Rowe Show train was wrecked five miles from Saskatoon, Sask. Canada.

Pawnee Bill Show was wrecked by wind and rain at Bayonne, N.J., July 17th 1906. Damage amounted to \$7,000 and Pawnee Bill had his arm broken.

At Tiger Creek, Ark., on October 25th 1906 a section of the Hagenbeck Show train was wrecked with three flat cars entirely demolished. Two years later on June 25th 1908, to be exact, same show was wrecked at St. Paul, when crashed into by a freight train.

John Robinson Circus suffered a blowdown in Alabama, on October 14th 1908 during matinee. After tent collapsed it caught fire.

On October 24th 1908 at Gulfport, Miss., a riot was started between lawless whites and drunken Negroes, on lot of Miller Bros., 101 Ranch Wild West. Lon Seeler shot it out with one of the offenders and both were killed.

Norris and Rowe Circus big top was blown down at Princeton, Ind., on October 28th, 1909, and over 1000 people hurt.

During matinee at Schenectady, N.Y., May 21st 1910 - fifteen thousand people were thrown into a panic when fire destroyed Barnum & Bailey big top. All seats destroyed and an estimated loss of \$18,000.

Five minutes after night show started July 5th, 1910, Ringling Bros., Circus was struck by cyclone at Watertown, S.D. Big Top was torn to shreds. Gas lamps igniting tent added to its destruction by causing fire. Damage \$20,000.

Yankee Robinson Show train was wrecked at Merriland Junction, Wisc., June 9th 1911.

Ringling Bros., Circus main tent was destroyed by fire in Afternoon of August 22nd 1912 at Sterling, Ill.,

Parker Shows suffered blowdown at Michigan City, Ind., Labor Day 1912.

In April 1913, Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus suffered heavy loss when Winter Quarters at Peru, Ind., were flooded.

Rice and Bore Shows were struck by a tornado at Grand Island, Nebr., in July 1913.

Rock Island train and Barnum & Bailey Circus train crashed at Richfield, Nebr., August 12th 1913.

Shenandoah, Pa., August 24th 1913 was the scene of a riot between mob and Sig Sautelle Nine Big Shows.

Forty-three cars of Ringling Bros., Circus were destroyed by fire, latter part of May 1914 at Cleveland, Ohio. Loss \$65,000.

John H. Sparks Show was caught in tornado June 23rd 1914 at Redwood Falls, Minn.

Sells-Floto-Buffalo Bill Shows were wrecked between Onaga and Havenville, Kans., September 16th 1915.

Ringling Bros., Circus suffered \$25,000 loss when one of horse tents was destroyed by fire at Huntsville, Ala., October 28th 1916. 40 head of stock burned to death, and same number had to be killed on account of severe burns.

Stock car of Coop & Lent Circus burnt in Kenton, Ohio., May 6th 1917, killing 3 elephants.

Big top of Barnum & Bailey Circus was blown down when struck by tornado at Uniontown, Penna., June 1st 1917.

"CIRCUS EVENTS" (Continued)

Polack Bros., 20 Big Shows wrecked at Dunkirk, N.Y., July 19th, 1917, Sun Bros. Circus was struck by tornado January 11th, 1918, while playing Georgia State Fair, at Macon.

On June 22nd, 1918, Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train was passing through Gary, Ind., en route from Michigan City to Hammond. Hot box caused train to stop. Trainmen set up danger signals. Despite warnings, empty equipment train moving at 50 miles an hour tore completely through four circus cars and demolished fifth, which were filled with sleeping circus people. 85 were killed outright.

\$100,000. damage was caused by fire at Ringling-Barnum Circus Winter quarters at Bridgeport, Conn., February, 1924.

All elephants of Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus injured when hit by passenger train at Elgin, Ill., July 10th, 1927.

Al. G. Barnes Circus train was wrecked middle of July, 1930, at Canaan, N.B., Canada.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG (Continued)

Dick Anderson CHS is with the Clyde Beatty - Russell Bros. Circus for this season. He expects to be writing for the Billboard and says he looks forward to meeting any CHS Members who may visit the show on the West Coast.

CHS Richard Ellsworth has had his model circus, "Ricardo's Circus" on display in a downtown store in Canton, N.Y., for the week of March 28th in the interests of the Red Cross. The display received great publicity in the Commercial Advertiser of Canton. Ricardo's Circus is one of the most complete model circuses we have heard of.

The First Division of CHS to be organized is that of Division Two, which has applied for and been allotted the "Two Hemispheres" Bandwagon. Maurice Allaire of Portland, Me., has been voted "Driver" of their bandwagon.

CHS Members of Maine met on Sunday, March 12th at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Brown. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Fulton White, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Allaire; Lawrence Butler; Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown, host and hostess, and also a group of interested prospects for membership in CHS. Members brought along samples of their collections of circus material and M. Allaire brought 3 flat cars loaded with parade equipment. Movies of circus interest were shown. Plans were made to hold a CHS Circus day this summer, in which a large display of collections and models will be staged for the benefit of the general public.

New Members since February Bandwagon:

- 116.....Mr. Allen P. Wescott, North Castine, Maine,
GC; Sp in books
- 117.....Mr. Gordon E. Borders, 131 So. Oak St., Ottawa, Kansas
Ph
- 118.....Mr. R. C. Friesel, 6961 Frankstown Ave., Pittsburgh 8, Pa.
Model Circus
- 119.....Mr. J. S. Armstrong, 101 N.W. 27th St., Oklahoma City 3,
GC: ph: R. Okla.
- 120.....Mr. Herbert E. Head, 5547 Fairview, Detroit, 13, Mich.
Models, ph.
- 121.....Mr. R. H. Coombs, P.O. Box 2527, Houston, Texas.
Ph.
- 122.....Mr. Henry L. Symons, 59 Carbondale St., Waymart, Pa.
Model Circus equipment.
- 123.....Mr. Kenneth R. Ikirt, 118 Sherman St., Lisbon, Ohio
GC: R: Pr: Ph; Bks.
- 124.....Mr. John Van Matre, 3328 H. St., Philadelphia 34, Pa.
Ph; Pr; M.
- 125.....Mr. Robert A. Collins, 19 Canandaigua St., Palmyra, N.Y.
GC: Ph; Pr; Bks.

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS - Sarasota - Preview.

CHS was well represented at the above preview in the person of our popular member Robt. Good. This was his first vacation in 10 years and he made the trip specially to Florida to see the Winter Quarters, Ringling Museum and Preview of the Big Show - and reports that it was a wonderful trip and that he has many fine photos. Bob has written a very interesting article on his visit to Sarasota, which will appear in a special enlarged historical Note Sheet in May. Included with the same issue will be a large old time bandwagon view also donated by Rob Good. In the meantime he made arrangements to secure sufficient copies of the Sarasota Preview program so that each CHS member receives one with this issue. This is something really special and will be looked forward to.

Changes of address:

Ted Meyer, CHS 40, from Grand Island Nebr., to Box 14, Iola, Kansas.

Paul A. Ruddell, CHS 65, from Washington, D.C., to
4909 F St., Capitol Heights, Maryland.

Frank Norton - sends in the following item:

JOHN ROBINSON'S 10 BIG SHOWS COMBINED.
Acknowledged the Most Ideal Show in the World.
(not in the circus trust)

The above is part of an ad for July 10th, 1905 - which carries a 3-column menagerie cut, featuring 3 combined menageries, and "The only 12-centre pole waterproof menagerie canvas ever built."

This is something we would like to hear more about.....

WANTED

Circus lithographs as follows:-

- 1 - Barnum & Bailey - upright heads of P.T.Barnum & J.A.Bailey
- 2 - Barnum & Bailey - flat - Mrs. Bradna's "Act Beautiful"
Winged Horse, Dogs, etc.
- 3 - Ringling Bros. - flat - Springing Tiger.
- 4 - RBBB - about 1924 - had two or three groups of Wild Animal
Acts, Flat posters. Write:-

Robert D. Good - 1609 Turner Street, Allentown, Pa.

Wanted: Used or unused circus letterheads and envelopes.
Have photos and other circiana to trade or will buy.

Write full information to:-

Chalmer Condon - R.R.3,
Logansport, Indiana.

FOR SALE

"THE LAND OF SAWDUST AND SPANGLES"

National Geographic containing
the above finely illustrated
circus article, Special .75¢

Walter W. Tyson,
27 Green St., Guelph, Ont., Canada.

C I R C U S B O O K SAdvertisement

Offered by

THE GUNROOM BOOKSELLERS
NORTH CASTINE MAINE

Disher, FAIRS, CIRCUSES & MUSIC HALLS	\$ 1.25
Clarke, CIRCUS PARADE	3.00
Bailey, MOLLIE BAILEY, CIRCUS QUEEN OF THE SOUTHWEST . . .	2.50
Robinson, OLD WAGON SHOW DAYS	2.50
Norwood, THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CIRCUS	1.50
Robeson, AL. G. BARNES, MASTER SHOWMAN	3.00
" LOUIS ROTH -- FORTY YEARS WITH JUNGLE KILLERS . . .	3.00
Stark, HOLD THAT TIGER	2.50
Orr, HERE COME THE ELEPHANTS	2.50
Allen & Kelly, FUN BY THE TON (elephants)	2.50
Bostock, THE TRAINING OF WILD ANIMALS	2.00
Durov, MY CIRCUS ANIMALS	2.00
Willson, WHERE THE WORLD FOLDS UP AT NIGHT	2.50
Fellows & Freeman, THIS WAY TO THE BIG SHOW	1.50
Burleigh, CIRCUS, A PICTURE BOOK WITH TEXT	1.50
Hoyt, TOTO AND I, A GORILLA IN THE FAMILY	2.50
Lintz, ANIMALS ARE MY HOBBY ("Gargantua the Great") . . .	2.75
Barnum, STRUGGLES & TRIUMPHS, OR FORTY YEARS' RECOLLECTIONS OF P. T. BARNUM	1.20
Werner, BARNUM, A BIOGRAPHY	1.50
Ferris, HERE COMES BARNUM	1.30
Sanger, SEVENTY YEARS A SHOWMAN	2.50
Beatty & Wilson, JUNGLE PERFORMERS	2.75
Buck, ALL IN A LIFE TIME	2.75
" ANIMALS ARE LIKE THAT!	2.50
" ON JUNGLE TRAILS	2.00
Webber, MEDICINE SHOW	3.00
Dean, THE ART OF KNIFE THROWING	1.00
Mason, ROPING	1.25
Cody, BUFFALO BILL'S LIFE STORY	1.50
Chipman, "HEY RUBE"	2.50

And others.

Also books on guns, shooting, fishing, camping, horses, dogs, the sea, railroadiana; and outdoor & sporting books generally. Lists on request. Books sent postpaid anywhere in the U.S., but Canadian postage is extra. Gladly send on approval. Satisfaction guaranteed.

W A N T E D

Fred P. Pitzer's "The Circus Scrap Book" No. 2. Will give \$1.00
for same.

Charlie Campbell's "Today is Circus Day in?" . . Vol. 1. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6,
7, 18, 19. Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10; Vol. 3. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9,
10, 11, 12, 13, 26 and 27.

H A V E

"This Way to the Big Show" by Dexter W. Fellows and Andrew A. Freeman.
Price \$2.00 postpaid
Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus Magazines for - 1942, 1943
25¢ each

Circus Parade by Jim Tully - paper covers - good. - 50¢

Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup No. 116 - Old Circuses and
Weeklies - 10¢. Nos. 132 - The Circus is coming to Town - 10¢;
No. 136 - My Meeting with Buffalo Bill - 10¢

Old Dime & Nickel Novels and Story Papers from 1840 to 1930
wanted. What have you? Send list and price wanted at once.

RALPH F. CUMMINGS

Fisherville, Mass. U. S. A.

300 Circus Pictures for Sale
List and Sample - 15 cents

"As Told on a Sunday Run" - Guide for Collectors\$1.00

Harry Bowman, Jeanette, Pa.

8 x 10" enlargements - for 50 cents

WAIT AND WATCH FOR "SAWDUST AND SPANGLES"

you won't be disappointed.

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BIG TOP ENDORSED !!!Advertisement

THE FOLLOWING LETTERS ARE POSITIVELY UNSOLICITED AND ARE ON FILE IN OUR OFFICES FOR ANYONE TO SEE ANYTIME !!!

LAUDS KOFORD ARTICLE

"The article by Mr. Koford, I really enjoyed reading and am sure all who read it found it of real interest! It was a splendid article. The photo of the two Advertising Cars added much interest to the story and made it of keen interest. I was with Sells-Floto Circus 1920 season".
C. E. DUBLE, JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA.

LIKES MAKE-UP OF BIG TOP

"I like your paper very much and I wish to compliment you on the fine mimeographing. Usually this is so poor it kills the publication. The reading matter is excellent and holds one's interest. You have dug around enough to secure items that appeal to any trouper or fan!"
ARTHUR MILLER, MILLERS CINE FILMS, ELMIRA, NEW YORK.

FORMER P.A. FOR COLE BROS., TOM MIX, KEN MAYNARD, W.W. ROBBINS, WORLD BROS. PRAISES BIG TOP

"Your recent edition (Dec., 1943) of BIG TOP rec'd this date and it is certainly a newsy sheet of which I sincerely hope you shall never suspend publication. There has been a great need for such a publication and you've done an excellent job of editing same."
HARRY B. CHIPMAN, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

CIRCUS MANAGER SAYS BIG TOP FILLS GREAT NEED

"Your February issue of BIG TOP splendidly edited. It is a valuable sheet of knowledge for many amusement managers, both in and out of the Circus and Wild West field. Mr. Wm. Koford writes a splendid illust. of what once was a strenuous billing war between two great circuses. I am confident that BIG TOP is filling a vacancy greatly needed and appreciated by the entire Circus and Wild West World. Keep us advised and expect our undivided support. D.C. HAWN, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

WE GIVE THE ABOVE AS REFERENCE OR ANY READER OF BIG TOP.....YOU WILL BE WISE IF YOU INVESTIGATE THIS NEW CIRCUS PAPER TODAY....WRITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR SEND 20¢ FOR SAMPLE COPY....Year's subscription: \$1.00.

ROBERT SAMS, EDITOR, 3009 - 15th STREET, ENSLEY 8, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

HAGENBECK-WALLACE SHOWS' PARADE - Peru, Ind., April 20, 1911

Mounted Women Couriers	Open den elks and kangaroos - 6-
No. 1 Band Wagon	horse team,
Four women driving tandem teams	Open den - snake enchantress -
Eight-horse Tableau wagon	6-horse team.
Open den of tigers and lions -	Four hybrids - cross between zebra
6 horses	and mule
Tableaux - drawn by 6 colts	Four-horse tableau wagon
Open hippo den - 8 horses	Oriental band - mounted
Mounted women	Open den of lions - 8 horses
Mounted men	Four horse tableau
Open den of Llamas drawn by	Sideshow bandwagon - 8 horses
6 horses	12 mounted men in military uniforms
Clown riding in donkey cart	Juvenile Roman Hippodrome - minia-
Four-horse tableau wagon	ture chariots - ponies.
Four-horse Tableau wagon	Ten ponies - led,
Clown riding donkey	Four-horse tableau
Four-horse tableau wagon	Russian men & women on wagon drawn
Six-horse tableau wagon	by 8 horses
Clown driving donkey	Six-horse closed den
Open den of axis deer -	Four-horse open den of elk
4 horse team	Six horse tableau
Clown band wagon - 6 horses	Thirteen elephants - then 4 camels
Ten lady riders	and Calliope - drawn by 6 horses
Two Roman Chariots	-----

----The Billboard, April 29, 1911
Sent in by A.M. Smith CHS.